Second level:—

(i) Assessment of short listed conceptual ideas/proposals by a committee of eminent technical domain experts (minimum of 3 experts) rated on 1 to 10 scale for further consideration and examination; and

(ii) Selection of top rated one or two ideas based on average rating with a minimum rating of 5) in each broad area.

III. Development of conceptual ideas into projects:

Development of selected idea/conceptual proposal into project proposal with the guidance of national experts and concerned industry partner. CSIR identifies and provides these experts for helping the industry to build the proposal.

IV. Approvals

(i) The final project proposal as developed is submitted to the High-Powered Committee for consideration and recommendation; and

(ii) The project proposal along with HPC recommendations is then put up to DG, CSIR/SFC(GB)/EFC, as appropriate for final consideration and approval.

V. Disbursal of Funds:

An agreement is entered among the partners and then funds are released to partners for implementation of the project.

Integrated Textile Park at Palakkad

1850. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the competent authority of Kerala during April, 2008 had submitted a representation for approval/sanction of the Integrated Textile Park at Palakkad;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether approval will be given for the above with Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA) of Kerala alone as the promoter initially and to divest its stake to private investors on completion of the basic infrastructure required for the industry;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) to (e) A request was received from the Government of Kerala to sanction one textiles park project in Palakkad, Kerala under the Scheme for Integrated Textiles Parks (SITP). It was proposed that Kerala Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation (KINFRA) alone would be the promoter of the park initially as it would be able to attract private investors after initial infrastructure is laid in place.

The Government of Kerala was *inter alia* informed that Industry Associations/Groups of Entrepreneurs are main promoters of textiles parks by forming a Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV). However, the SITP provides for equity participation, not exceeding 49% of the equity of the SPV, by State Government or State owned Corporation.

Need to bring textile industry out of recession

†1851. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a need to bring the textile industry out of recession;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether there is an apprehension that lakhs of people from this industry will be rendered jobless due to recession; and

(d) if so, the estimated number of people to be rendered jobless till date, and the steps taken by Government to save this industry from recession?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI E.V.K.S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) The Government has initiated various schemes and announced several relief measures from time to time, to sustain the growth momentum of the textile industry and to enable it to remain competitive in the wake of global demand slowdown. These are as follows:—

(i) The Technology Upgradation Fund Scheme (TUFS) was launched *w.e.f.* 1.4.1999 with the objective of making the textile industry globally competitive.

(ii) The "Scheme for Integrated Textile Park (SITP)" has been introduced in August, 2005 with a view to creating world-class infrastructure for the textile industry.

(iii) In the 2005-06 Budget, Central Value-aided Tax (CENVAT) on Polyester Filament Yarn has been reduced from 24% to 16%. These modifications in fiscal levies aim at attracting more investments for modernization of textile sector.

(iv) To facilitate import of state of the art machinery to make our products internationally competitive in post quota regime, in the 2005-06 Budget, the customs duty on textile machinery has been brought down to 10% except 23 machinery appearing in List 49, which attracts Basic Customs Duty (BCD) of 15%. The concessional duty of 5% continues for most of the machinery items.

(v) The Government has launched the Debt Restructuring Scheme *w.e.f.* September, 2003 with the principal objective of permitting banks to lend to the textile sector at 8-9% rate of interest.

(vi) The Government has allowed 100% Foreign Direct Investment in the textile sector under automatic route.

(vii) National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) has been set up.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.